as likely to ruin me now, when it was in the ear ; for, going along by the place to see how it throve, I saw my little crop surrounded with fowls of I know not how many sorts, which stood as it were watching till I should be gone. I immediately fired among them (for I always had my gun with me). I had no sooner shot, but there arose up a cloud of fowls, which I had not seen at all, from among the corn itself.

This touched me sensibly; for I foresaw that, in a few days, they would devour all my hopes; that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all—and what to do I could not tell; however, I resolved not to lose my corn, if possible, though I should watch it night and day. In the first place, I went among it to see what damage was already done, and found they had spoiled a good deal of it; but that, as it was yet too green for them, the loss was not so great, but the remainder was like to be a

good crop, if It could be saved.

I stayed by it to load my gun, and then coming away, I could easily see the thieves sitting upon all the trees about me, as if they only waited till I was gone away. And the